WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound having the formula:

A-X-M-Y-B

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

A and B are each members independently selected from the group consisting of substituted and unsubstituted aryl and substituted and unsubstituted heteroaryl;

X and Y are each members independently selected from the group consisting of:

a bond , $-O(CH_2)_m-$, $-N(R^1)-(CH_2)_m-$, $-(CH_2)_n-$, $-C(R^2)=C(R^3)-$,

$-C\equiv C-$, $-C(=W)-$, $-C(R^2)(R^4)-$ and $-N(R^1)-C(=W)-$;

with the proviso that at least one of X or Y is a bond, and wherein

the subscript m is 0, 1 or 2;

the subscript n is 1 or 2;

W is a member selected from the group consisting of O, N-OR^5, N-NR^1R^2, N-$NR^1C(O)R^6$ and N-$OC(O)R^6$;

R^1, R^2, R^3, and R^5 are each members independently selected from the group consisting of H, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, aryl, aryl$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, heteroaryl and heteroaryl$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl;

R^4 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, OH, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino, di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$acylamino, and $(C_1$-$C_8)$heteroalkyl; and

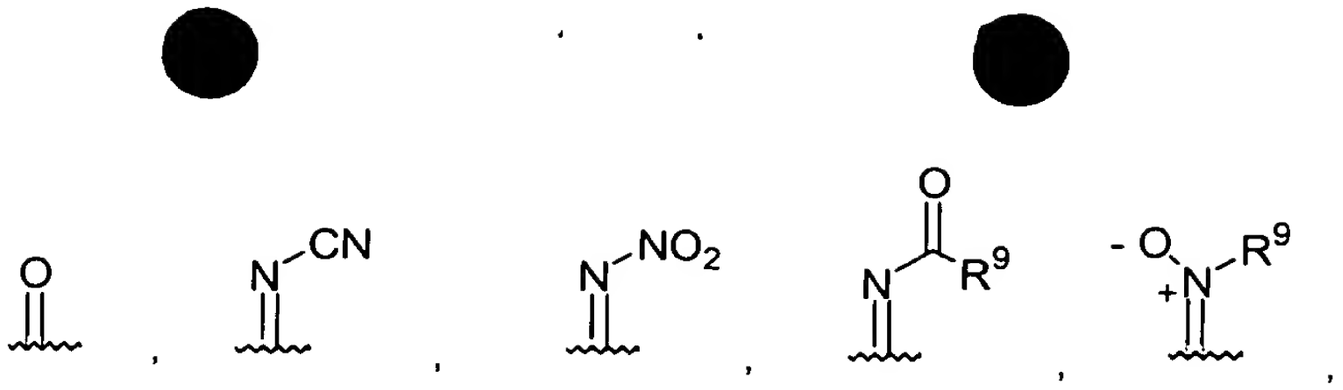
R^6 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino, di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino and $(C_1$-$C_8)$heteroalkyl; and

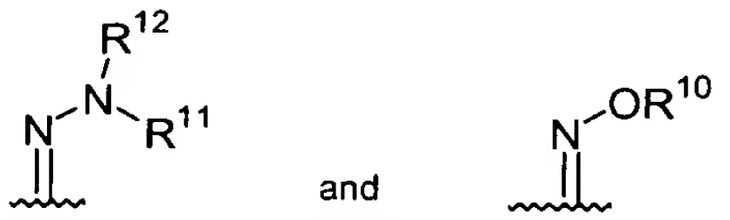
M is a divalent linking group selected from the group consisting of:

$-C(=U)-$, $-C(=U)-N(R^7)-$, $-C(=U)-C(R^8)(R^9)-$, $-C(=U)-C(=O)-$ and $-C(=U)-C(=N-OR^{10})-$;

wherein

U is a member selected from the group consisting of:





R^7 and R^8 are each independently members selected from the group consisting of H, OH, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylamino and di$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylamino;

R^9 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, aryl, aryl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, heteroaryl and heteroaryl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl;

R^{10} is a member selected from the group consisting of H, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, aryl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl and heteroaryl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl; and

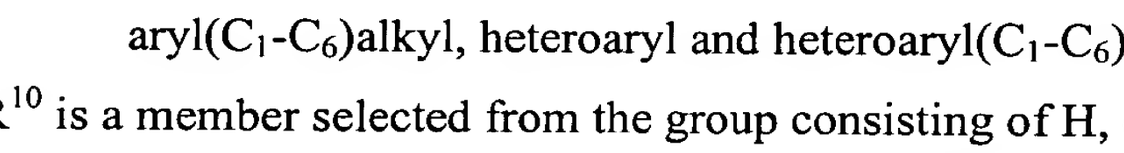
R^{11} and R^{12} are members independently selected from the group consisting of H, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, aryl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, heteroaryl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $C(O)R^{14}$, $C(O)OR^{14}$, $C(O)\text{-}NR^{14}R^{15}$, $S(O)_2R^{13}$ and $S(O)_2NR^{14}R^{15}$;

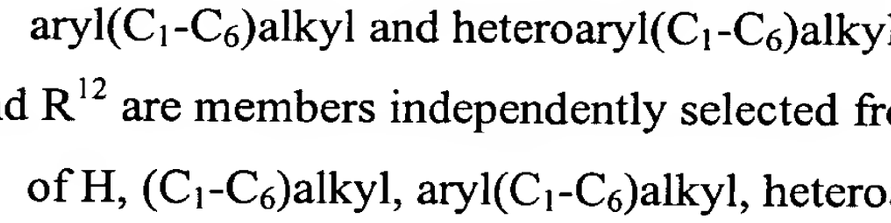
wherein

R^{13} is a member selected from the group consisting of $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$heteroalkyl, phenyl and substituted phenyl; and

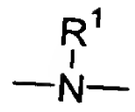
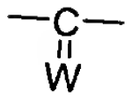
R^{14} and R^{15} are each members independently selected from the group consisting of H, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl and $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$heteroalkyl.

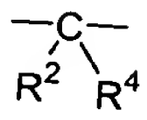
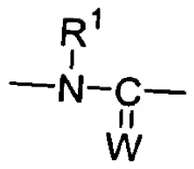
2. A compound of claim **1**, wherein X and Y are independently selected from the group consisting of:



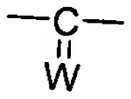
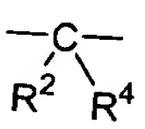


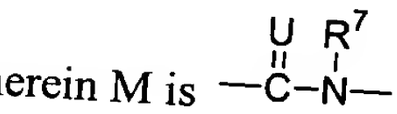
3. A compound of claim **1**, wherein X and Y are each independently selected from the group consisting of:

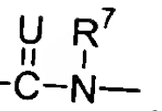
a bond ,  ,  ,

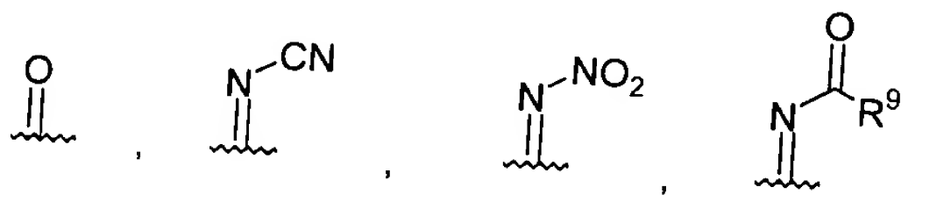
 and  .

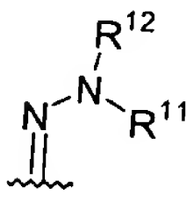
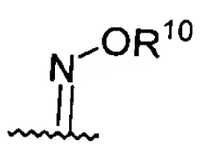
4. A compound of claim 1, wherein X and Y are each independently selected from the group consisting of:

a bond ,  and  .

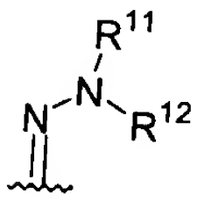
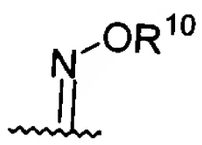
5. A compound of claim **1**, wherein M is  .

6. A compound of claim **1**, wherein X and Y are each a bond, and M is  , wherein U is selected from the group consisting of

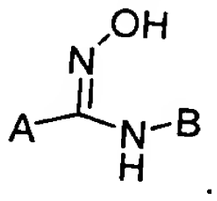


 and  .

7. A compound of claim **6**, wherein U is selected from the group consisting of

 and  .

8. A compound of claim **1**, said compound having the formula:

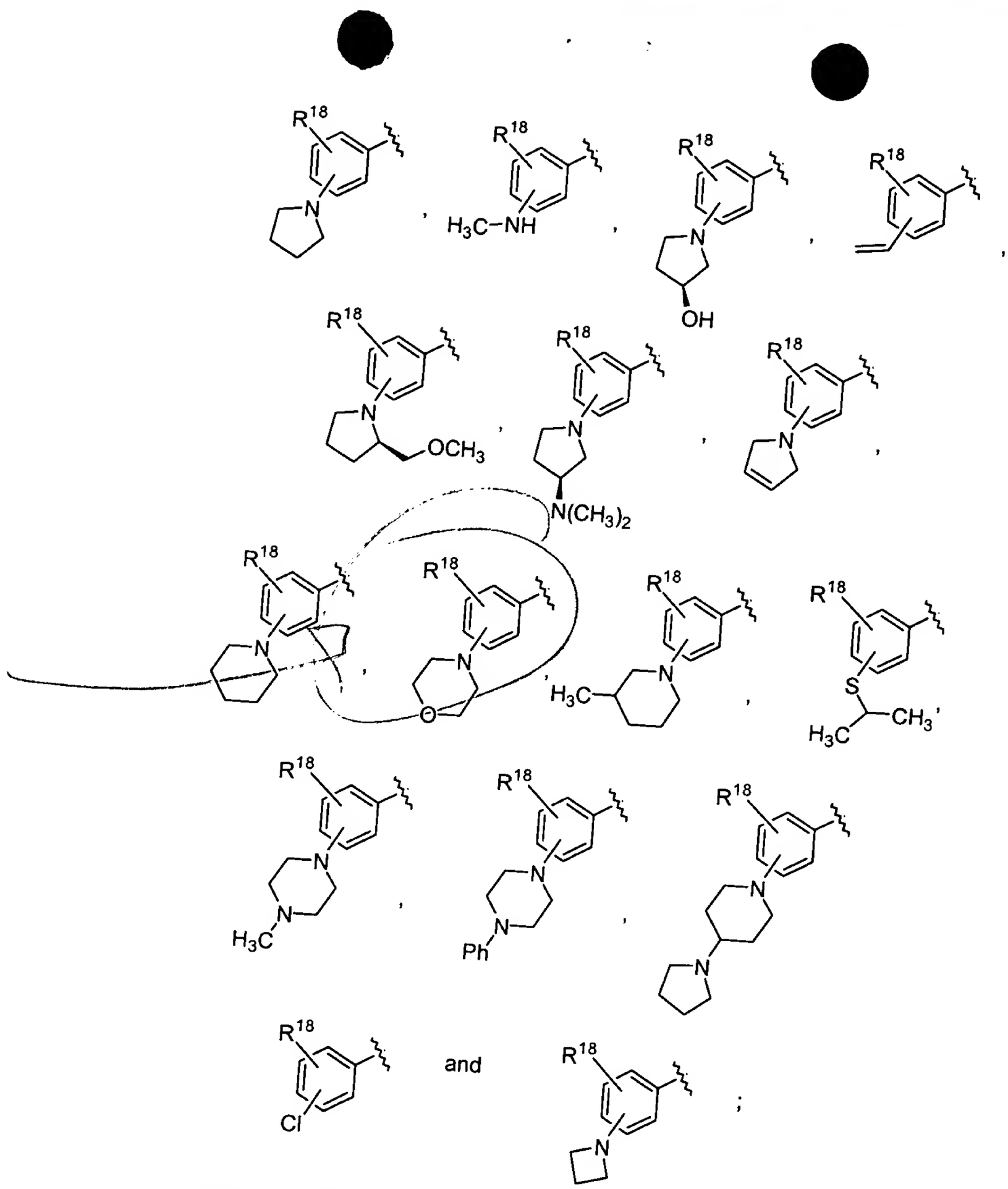
 .

9. A compound of claim **8**, wherein A is a phenyl group substituted with from one to three substituents selected from the group consisting of $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkoxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$haloalkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$haloalkoxy, halogen, nitro, phenyl, naphthyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl and $-NR^{16}R^{17}$ wherein R^{16} and R^{17} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $(C_1\text{-}C_8)$alkyl and $(C_1\text{-}C_8)$heteroalkyl or are combined with the nitrogen atom to which each is attached to form a four-, five-, six- or seven-membered ring optionally having additional heteroatoms as ring members and optionally having additional substituents selected from the group consisting of $(C_1\text{-}C_8)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_8)$heteroalkyl and phenyl.

10. A compound of claim **8**, wherein B is a phenyl group substituted with from one to three substituents selected from the group consisting of $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkoxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$heteroalkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$haloalkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$haloalkoxy, halogen, phenyl and phenoxy.

11. A compound of claim **8**, wherein A is a phenyl group substituted with from one to three substituents selected from the group consisting of $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkoxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$haloalkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$haloalkoxy, halogen and $-NR^{16}R^{17}$ wherein R^{16} and R^{17} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $(C_1\text{-}C_8)$alkyl and $(C_1\text{-}C_8)$heteroalkyl or are combined with the nitrogen atom to which each is attached to form a four-, five-, six- or seven-membered ring optionally having additional heteroatoms as ring members and optionally having additional substituents selected from the group consisting of $(C_1\text{-}C_8)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_8)$heteroalkyl and phenyl, and B is a phenyl group substituted with from one to three substituents selected from the group consisting of $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkoxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$heteroalkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$haloalkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$haloalkoxy, halogen, phenyl and phenoxy.

12. A compound of claim **8**, wherein A is selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted thienyl, substituted or unsubstituted furanyl, substituted or unsubstituted indolyl, substituted or unsubstituted benzothienyl, substituted or unsubstituted benzothienyl, and radicals of the formulae:



and

;

wherein R^{18} is a member selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_4)alkyl, (C_1-C_4)alkoxy, (C_1-C_4)heteroalkyl, (C_1-C_4)haloalkyl, (C_1-C_4)haloalkoxy and halogen.

13. A compound of claim **8**, wherein A is selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted benzofuranyl, substituted or unsubstituted benzothienyl, substituted or unsubstituted indolyl, substituted or unsubstituted benzimidazolyl, substituted or unsubstituted benzthiazolyl and substituted or unsubstituted benzoxazolyl.

14. A method of reducing bacterial growth on a surface, said method comprising contacting said surface with a compound of claim **1**.

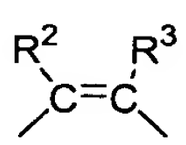
15. A method of treating a bacterial infection comprising contacting a subject in need of such treatment with an effective amount of a compound having the formula:

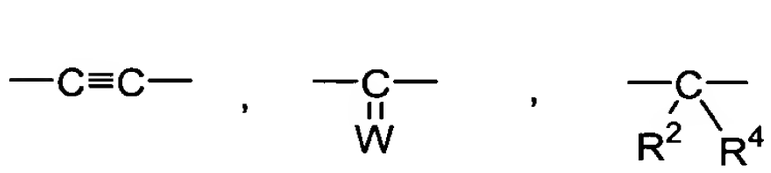
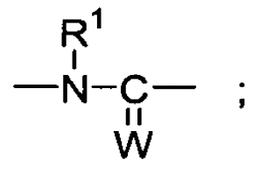
A-X-M-Y-B

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

A and B are each members independently selected from the group consisting of substituted and unsubstituted aryl and substituted and unsubstituted heteroaryl;

X and Y are each members independently selected from the group consisting of:

a bond ,  ,  ,

 and  ;

with the proviso that at least one of X or Y is a bond, and wherein

the subscript m is 0, 1 or 2;

the subscript n is 1 or 2;

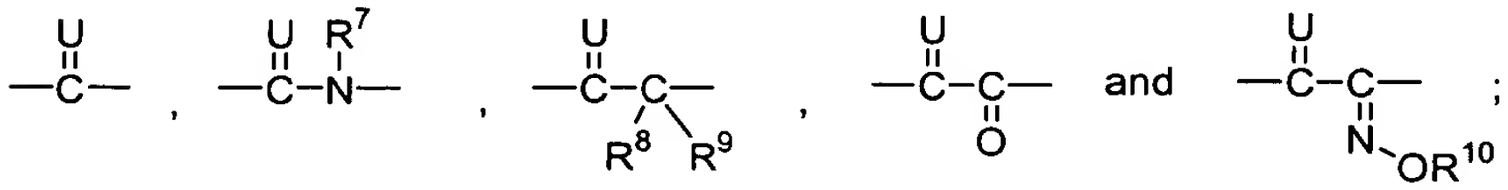
W is a member selected from the group consisting of O, N-OR^5, N-NR^{1}R^2, N-NR^{1}C(O)R^6 and N-OC(O)R^6;

R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^5 are each members independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, aryl, aryl(C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, heteroaryl and heteroaryl(C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl;

R^4 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, OH, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkoxy, amino, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkylamino, di(C$_1$-C$_6$)alkylamino, (C$_1$-C$_6$)acylamino, and (C$_1$-C$_8$)heteroalkyl; and

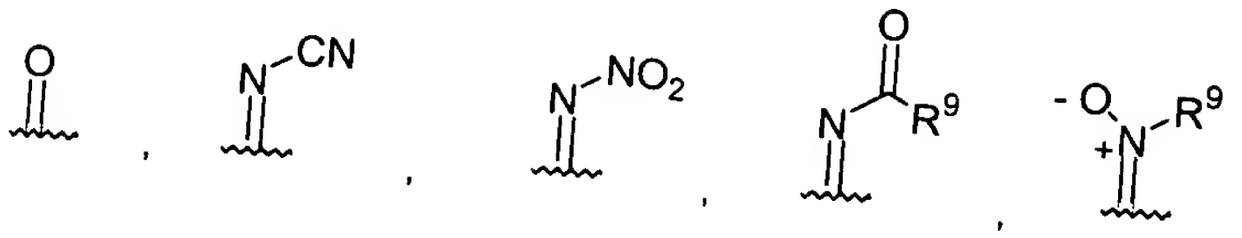
R^6 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkoxy, amino, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkylamino, di(C$_1$-C$_6$)alkylamino and (C$_1$-C$_8$)heteroalkyl; and

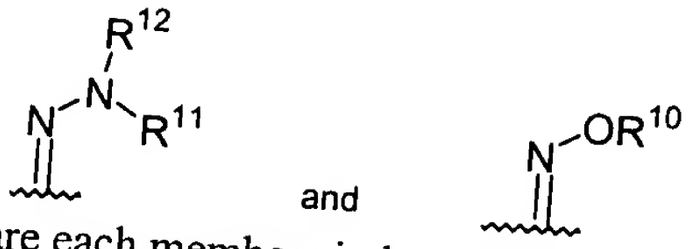
M is a divalent linking group selected from the group consisting of:



wherein

U is a member selected from the group consisting of:





and

;

R^7 and R^8 are each members independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylamino and di$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylamino;

R^9 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, aryl, aryl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, heteroaryl and heteroaryl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl;

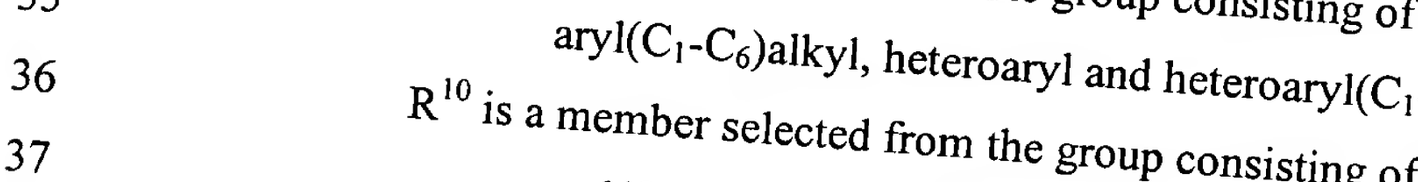
R^{10} is a member selected from the group consisting of H, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, aryl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl and heteroaryl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl; and

R^{11} and R^{12} are members independently selected from the group consisting of H, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, aryl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, heteroaryl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $C(O)R^{14}$, $C(O)OR^{14}$, $C(O)\text{-}NR^{14}R^{15}$, $S(O)_2R^{13}$ and $S(O)_2NR^{14}R^{15}$; wherein

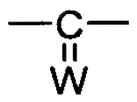
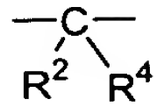
R^{13} is a member selected from the group consisting of $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$heteroalkyl, phenyl and substituted phenyl; and

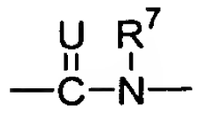
R^{14} and R^{15} are each members independently selected from the group consisting of H, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl and $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$heteroalkyl.

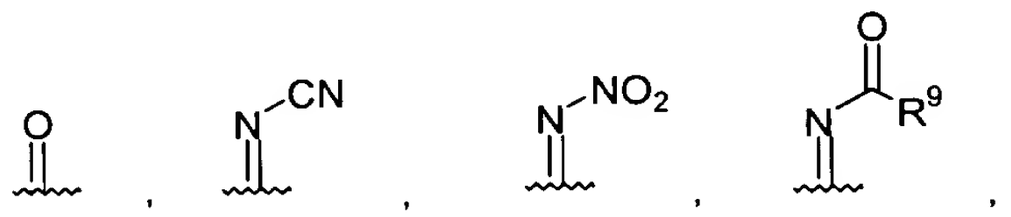
16. A method in accordance with claim **15**, wherein X and Y are independently selected from the group consisting of:

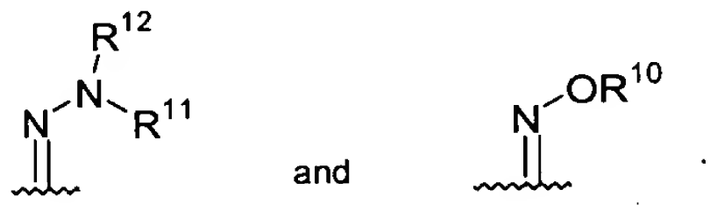


17. A method in accordance with claim **15**, wherein X and Y are each independently selected from the group consisting of:

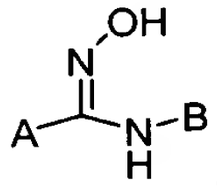
a bond  , and  .

18. A method in accordance with claim **15**, wherein X and Y are each a bond, and M is  , wherein U is selected from the group consisting of





19. A method in accordance with claim **15**, said compound having the formula:



20. A method in accordance with claim **19**, wherein A is a phenyl group substituted with from one to three substituents selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_4)alkyl, (C_1-C_4)alkoxy, (C_1-C_4)haloalkyl, (C_1-C_4)haloalkoxy, halogen, nitro, phenyl, naphthyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl and $-NR^{16}R^{17}$ wherein R^{16} and R^{17} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_8)alkyl and (C_1-C_8)heteroalkyl or are combined with the nitrogen atom to which each is attached to form a four-, five-, six- or seven-membered ring optionally having additional heteroatoms as ring members and optionally having additional substituents selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_8)alkyl, (C_1-C_8)heteroalkyl and phenyl.

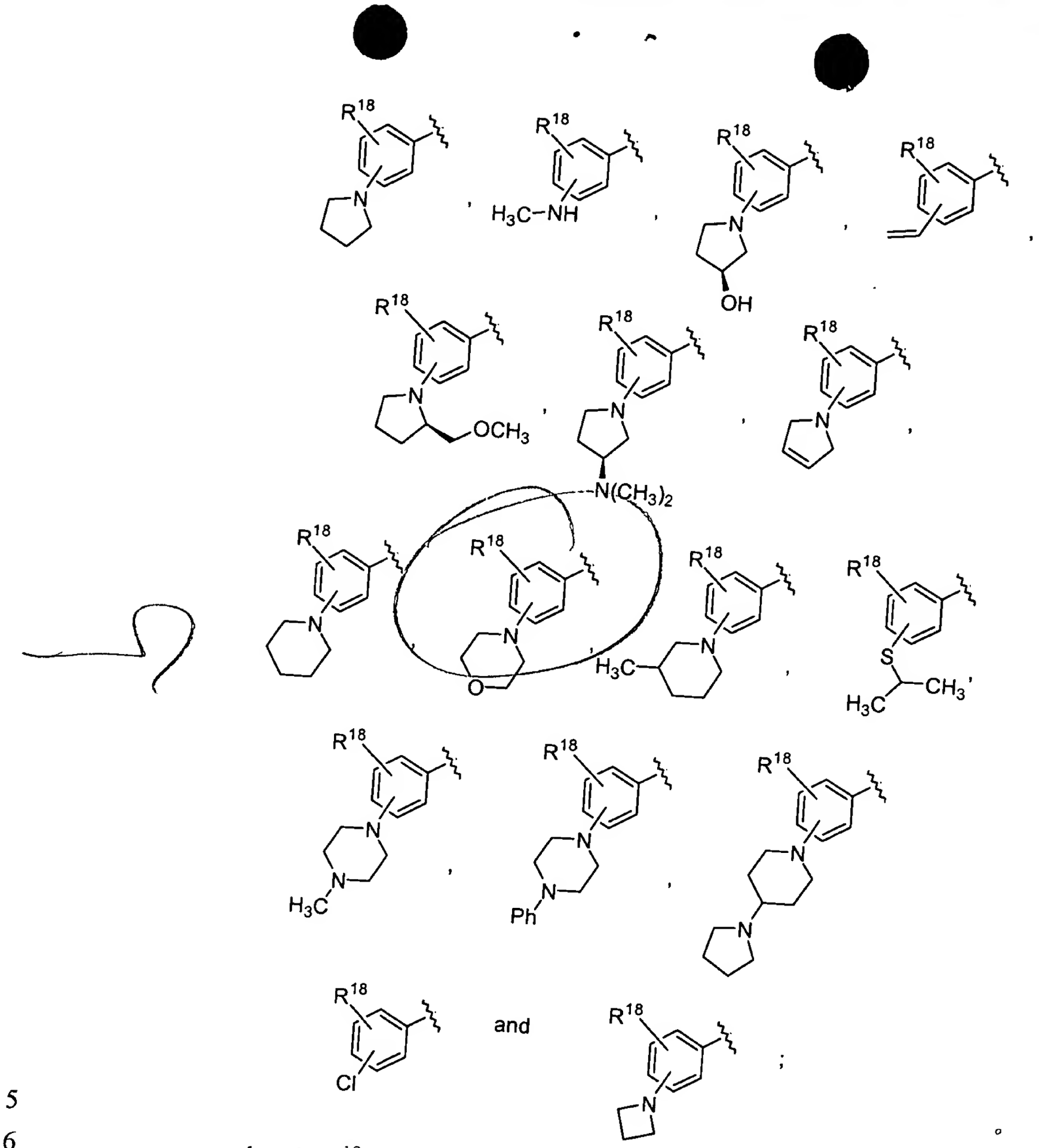
21. A method in accordance with claim **19**, wherein B is a phenyl group substituted with from one to three substituents selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_4)alkyl, (C_1-C_4)alkoxy, (C_1-C_4)heteroalkyl, (C_1-C_4)haloalkyl, (C_1-C_4)haloalkoxy, halogen, phenyl and phenoxy.

22. A method in accordance with claim **19**, wherein A is a phenyl group substituted with from one to three substituents selected from the group consisting

of (C_1-C_4)alkyl, (C_1-C_4)alkoxy, (C_1-C_4)haloalkyl, (C_1-C_4)haloalkoxy, halogen and –$NR^{16}R^{17}$ wherein R^{16} and R^{17} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_8)alkyl and (C_1-C_8)heteroalkyl or are combined with the nitrogen atom to which each is attached to form a four-, five-, six- or seven-membered ring optionally having additional heteroatoms as ring members and optionally having additional substituents selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_8)alkyl, (C_1-C_8)heteroalkyl and phenyl, and B is a phenyl group substituted with from one to three substituents selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_4)alkyl, (C_1-C_4)alkoxy, (C_1-C_4)heteroalkyl, (C_1-C_4)haloalkyl, (C_1-C_4)haloalkoxy, halogen, phenyl and phenoxy.

23. A method in accordance with claim **19**, wherein A is selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted thienyl, substituted or unsubstituted furanyl, substituted or unsubstituted indolyl, substituted or unsubstituted benzothienyl, substituted or unsubstituted benzothienyl, and radicals of the formulae:

Replaced by Replacement



wherein R^{18} is a member selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_4)alkyl, (C_1-C_4)alkoxy, (C_1-C_4)heteroalkyl, (C_1-C_4)haloalkyl, (C_1-C_4)haloalkoxy and halogen.

24. A method in accordance with claim **23**, wherein A is selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted benzofuranyl, substituted or unsubstituted benzothienyl, substituted or unsubstituted indolyl, substituted or unsubstituted benzimidazolyl, substituted or unsubstituted benzthiazolyl and substituted or unsubstituted benzoxazolyl.

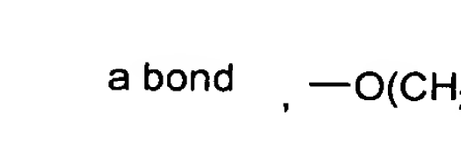
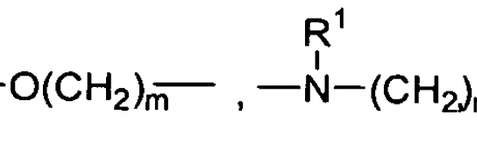
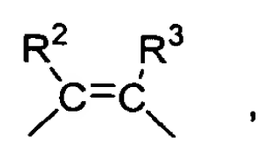
25. A composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient in admixture with a compound having the formula:

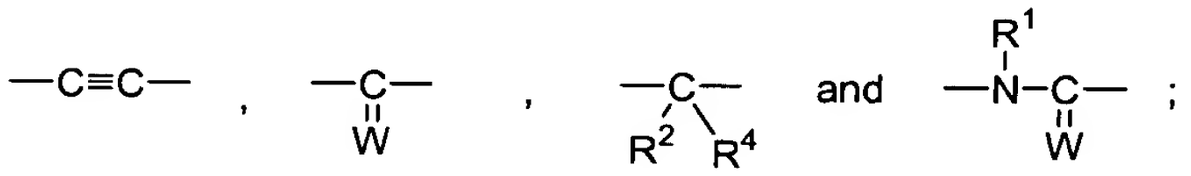
A-X-M-Y-B

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

A and B are each members independently selected from the group consisting of substituted and unsubstituted aryl and substituted and unsubstituted heteroaryl;

X and Y are each members independently selected from the group consisting of:

a bond ,  ,  ,  ,

 ;

with the proviso that at least one of X or Y is a bond, and wherein

the subscript m is 0, 1 or 2;

the subscript n is 1 or 2;

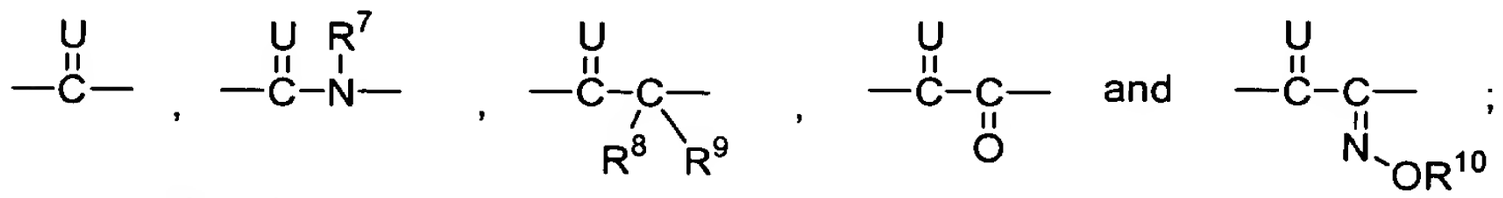
W is a member selected from the group consisting of O, N-OR^5, N-NR^1R^2, N-$NR^1C(O)R^6$ and N-$OC(O)R^6$;

R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^5 are each members independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, heteroaryl and heteroaryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R^4 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, OH, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, (C_1-C_6)acylamino, and (C_1-C_8)heteroalkyl; and

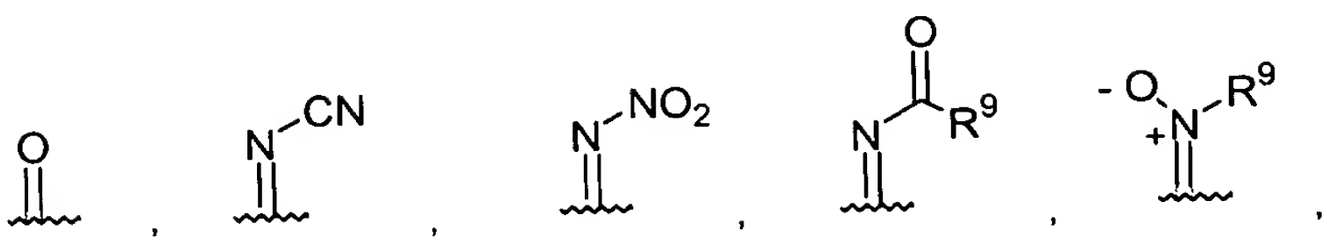
R^6 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino and (C_1-C_8)heteroalkyl; and

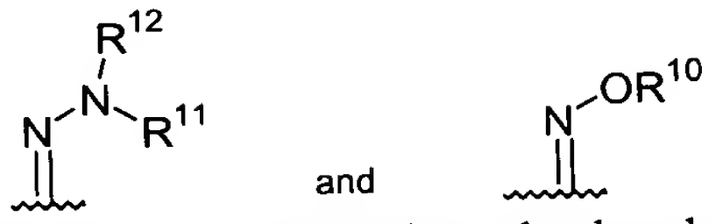
M is a divalent linking group selected from the group consisting of:



wherein

U is a member selected from the group consisting of:





and

;

R^7 and R^8 are each members independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino and di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino;

R^9 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, heteroaryl and heteroaryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R^{10} is a member selected from the group consisting of H, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl and heteroaryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl; and

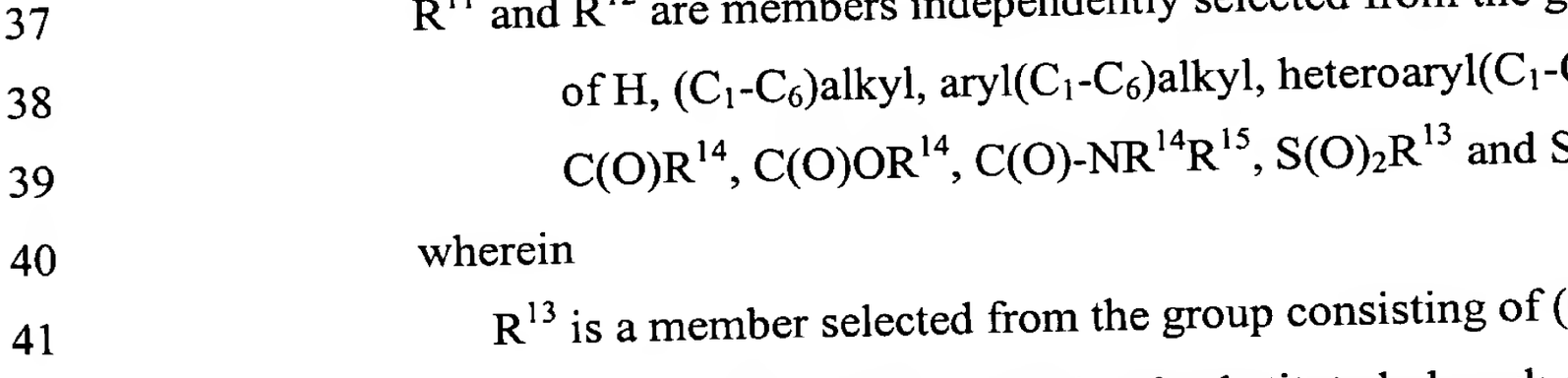
R^{11} and R^{12} are members independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, heteroaryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, $C(O)R^{14}$, $C(O)OR^{14}$, $C(O)$-$NR^{14}R^{15}$, $S(O)_2R^{13}$ and $S(O)_2NR^{14}R^{15}$;

wherein

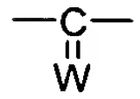
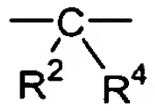
R^{13} is a member selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)heteroalkyl, phenyl and substituted phenyl; and

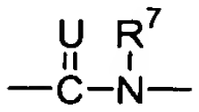
R^{14} and R^{15} are each members independently selected from the group consisting of H, (C_1-C_6)alkyl and (C_1-C_6)heteroalkyl.

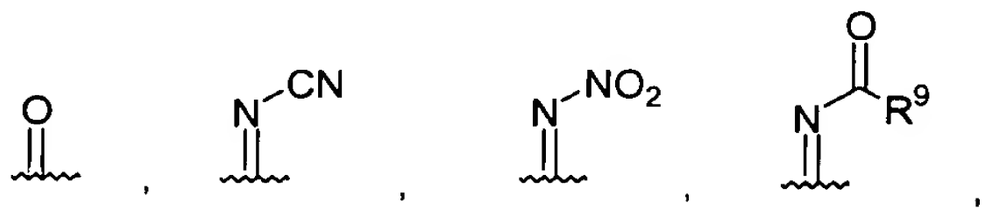
26. A composition in accordance with claim **25**, wherein X and Y are independently selected from the group consisting of:



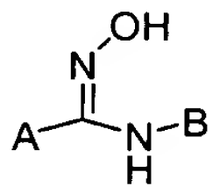
27. A composition in accordance with claim **25**, wherein X and Y are each independently selected from the group consisting of:

a bond ,  and  .

28. A composition in accordance with claim **25**, wherein X and Y are each a bond, and M is  , wherein U is selected from the group consisting of



29. A composition in accordance with claim **25**, said compound having the formula:

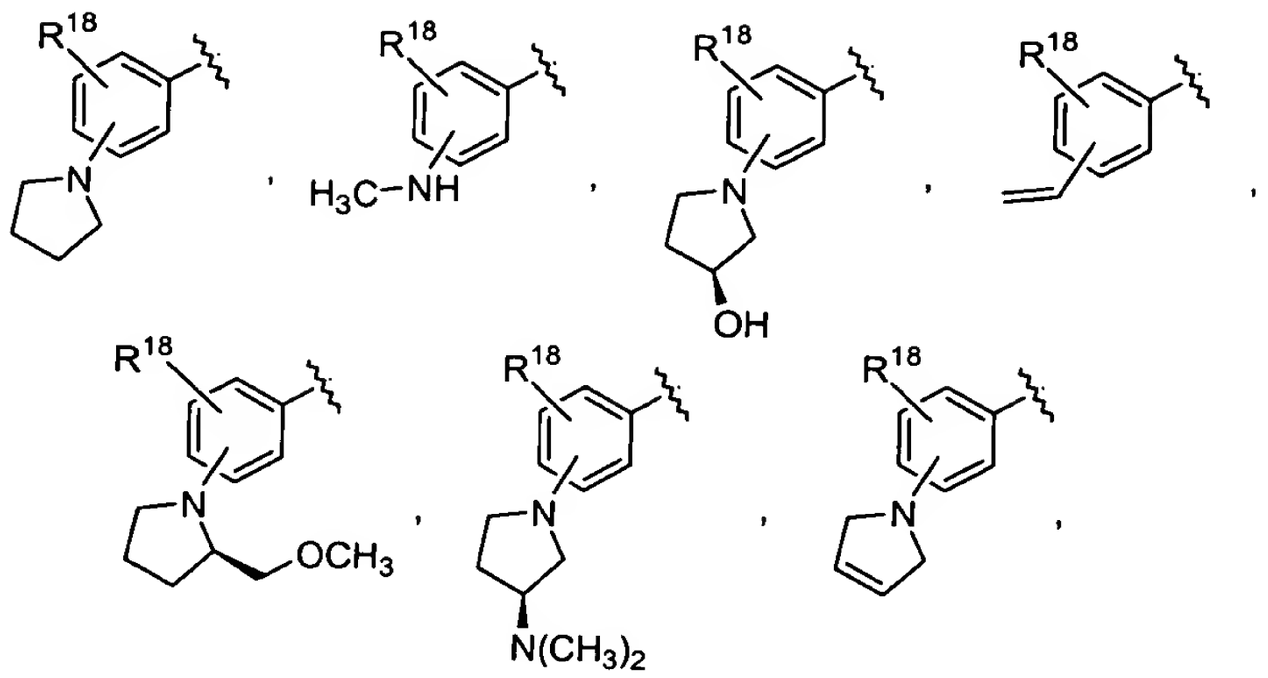


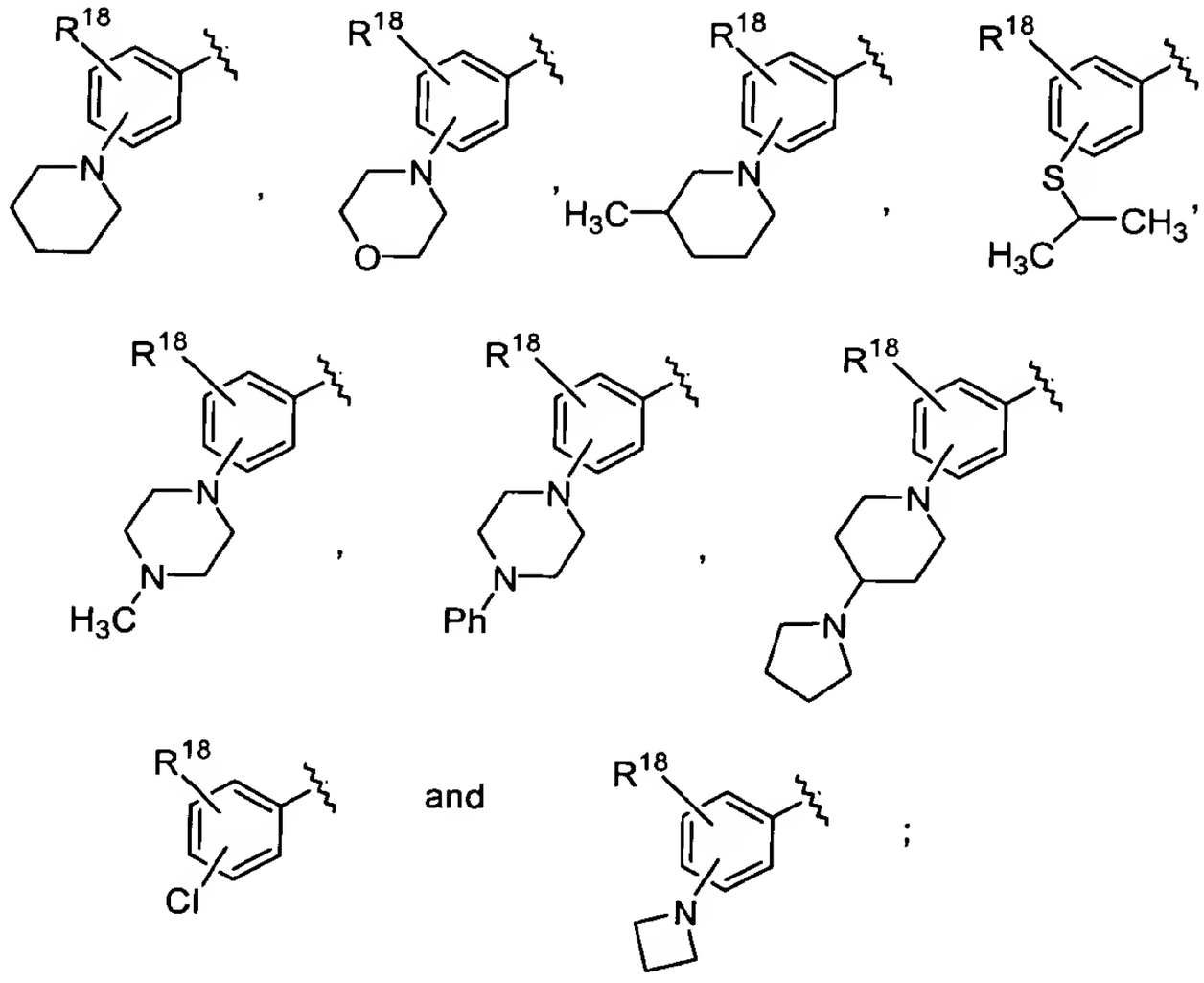
30. A composition in accordance with claim **29**, wherein A is a phenyl group substituted with from one to three substituents selected from the group consisting of $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkoxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$haloalkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$haloalkoxy, halogen, nitro, phenyl, naphthyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl and $-NR^{16}R^{17}$ wherein R^{16} and R^{17} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $(C_1\text{-}C_8)$alkyl and $(C_1\text{-}C_8)$heteroalkyl or are combined with the nitrogen atom to which each is attached to form a four-, five-, six- or seven-membered ring optionally having additional heteroatoms as ring members and optionally having additional substituents selected from the group consisting of $(C_1\text{-}C_8)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_8)$heteroalkyl and phenyl.

31. A composition in accordance with claim **29**, wherein B is a phenyl group substituted with from one to three substituents selected from the group consisting of $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkoxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$heteroalkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$haloalkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$haloalkoxy, halogen, phenyl and phenoxy.

32. A composition in accordance with claim **29**, wherein A is a phenyl group substituted with from one to three substituents selected from the group consisting of $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkoxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$haloalkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$haloalkoxy, halogen and $-NR^{16}R^{17}$ wherein R^{16} and R^{17} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $(C_1\text{-}C_8)$alkyl and $(C_1\text{-}C_8)$heteroalkyl or are combined with the nitrogen atom to which each is attached to form a four-, five-, six- or seven-membered ring optionally having additional heteroatoms as ring members and optionally having additional substituents selected from the group consisting of $(C_1\text{-}C_8)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_8)$heteroalkyl and phenyl, and B is a phenyl group substituted with from one to three substituents selected from the group consisting of $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkoxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$heteroalkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$haloalkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$haloalkoxy, halogen, phenyl and phenoxy.

33. A composition in accordance with claim **29**, wherein A is selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted thienyl, substituted or unsubstituted furanyl, substituted or unsubstituted indolyl, substituted or unsubstituted benzothienyl, substituted or unsubstituted benzothienyl, and radicals of the formulae:





and

;

wherein

R^{18} is a member selected from the group consisting of $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkoxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$heteroalkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$haloalkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$haloalkoxy and halogen.

34. A composition in accordance with claim **33**, wherein A is selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted benzofuranyl, substituted or unsubstituted benzothienyl, substituted or unsubstituted indolyl, substituted or unsubstituted benzimidazolyl, substituted or unsubstituted benzthiazolyl and substituted or unsubstituted benzoxazolyl.